

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1497

To promote the energy independence of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2007

Mr. CARDIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To promote the energy independence of the United States,
and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Energy Independence
5 Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE AND GOALS.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to provide support for
8 projects and activities to facilitate the energy independ-
9 ence of the United States so as to ensure that—

1 (1) all but 10 percent of the energy needs of
 2 the United States are supplied by domestic energy
 3 sources by calendar year 2017; and

4 (2) all but 20 percent of the energy needs of
 5 the United States are supplied by non-fossil fuel
 6 sources by calendar year 2037.

7 **SEC. 3. ENERGY POLICY COMMISSION.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a com-
 10 mission, to be known as the “National Commission
 11 on Energy Independence” (referred to in this section
 12 as the “Commission”).

13 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be
 14 composed of 15 members, of whom—

15 (A) 3 shall be appointed by the President;

16 (B) 3 shall be appointed by the majority
 17 leader of the Senate;

18 (C) 3 shall be appointed by the minority
 19 leader of the Senate;

20 (D) 3 shall be appointed by the Speaker of
 21 the House of Representatives; and

22 (E) 3 shall be appointed by the minority
 23 leader of the House of Representatives.

24 (3) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall
 2 designate 2 co-chairpersons from among the
 3 members of the Commission appointed.

4 (B) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—The co-
 5 chairpersons designated under subparagraph
 6 (A) shall not both be affiliated with the same
 7 political party.

8 (4) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—Members
 9 of the Commission shall be appointed not later than
 10 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

11 (5) TERM; VACANCIES.—

12 (A) TERM.—A member of the Commission
 13 shall be appointed for the life of the Commis-
 14 sion.

15 (B) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the
 16 Commission—

17 (i) shall not affect the powers of the
 18 Commission; and

19 (ii) shall be filled in the same manner
 20 as the original appointment.

21 (b) PURPOSE.—The Commission shall conduct a
 22 comprehensive review of the energy policy of the United
 23 States by—

1 (1) reviewing relevant analyses of the current
2 and long-term energy policy of, and conditions in,
3 the United States;

4 (2) identifying problems that may threaten the
5 achievement by the United States of long-term en-
6 ergy policy goals, including energy independence;

7 (3) analyzing potential solutions to problems
8 that threaten the long-term ability of the United
9 States to achieve those energy policy goals; and

10 (4) providing recommendations that will ensure,
11 to the maximum extent practicable, that the energy
12 policy goals of the United States are achieved.

13 (c) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31
15 of each of calendar years 2009, 2011, 2013, and
16 2015, the Commission shall submit to Congress and
17 the President a report on the progress of United
18 States in meeting the long-term energy policy goal
19 of energy independence, including a detailed state-
20 ment of the findings, conclusions, and recommenda-
21 tions of the Commission.

22 (2) LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—If a rec-
23 ommendation submitted under paragraph (1) in-
24 volves legislative action, the report shall include pro-
25 posed legislative language to carry out the action.

1 (d) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

2 (1) STAFF AND DIRECTOR.—The Commission
3 shall have a staff headed by an Executive Director.

4 (2) STAFF APPOINTMENT.—The Executive Di-
5 rector may appoint such personnel as the Executive
6 Director and the Commission determine to be appro-
7 priate.

8 (3) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the
9 approval of the Commission, the Executive Director
10 may procure temporary and intermittent services
11 under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

12 (4) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

13 (A) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOY-
14 EES.—

15 (i) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request
16 of the Commission, the head of any Fed-
17 eral agency may detail, without reimburse-
18 ment, any of the personnel of the Federal
19 agency to the Commission to assist in car-
20 rying out the duties of the Commission.

21 (ii) NATURE OF DETAIL.—Any detail
22 of a Federal employee under clause (i)
23 shall not interrupt or otherwise affect the
24 civil service status or privileges of the Fed-
25 eral employee.

1 (B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon the
2 request of the Commission, the head of a Fed-
3 eral agency shall provide such technical assist-
4 ance to the Commission as the Commission de-
5 termines to be necessary to carry out the duties
6 of the Commission.

7 (e) RESOURCES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall have
9 reasonable access to materials, resources, statistical
10 data, and such other information from Executive
11 agencies as the Commission determines to be nec-
12 essary to carry out the duties of the Commission.

13 (2) FORM OF REQUESTS.—The co-chairpersons
14 of the Commission shall make requests for access
15 described in paragraph (1) in writing, as necessary.

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